



**Lancaster Rural District Council**

---

**REPORT**  
OF THE  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
AND THE  
**Chief Public Health Inspector**  
for the Year  
**1971**



# **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

(as on 31st December, 1971)

---

## **Chairman:**

Councillor F. BUTCHER

Councillor E. M. Baxter

„ H. Brown

„ T. E. Burrows

„ A. Clarke

„ J. Downey

„ E. Dunnett

„ E. R. Harris

„ T. Harrison

„ T. E. Jackson

„ J. Kitchen

„ H. W. Knott

Councillor J. S. Lowthion

„ R. M. Makinson

„ W. Mashiter

„ J. T. Parker

„ F. H. Richardson

„ W. L. Rigg

„ Mrs. E. Rudkin

„ T. P. Shuttleworth

„ Mrs. J. M. Swaits

„ T. Tomlinson

„ J. Townley

## **STAFF :**

### **Medical Officer of Health :**

J. V. DYER, M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

### **Deputy Medical Officer of Health :**

B. O. WILSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.R.C.O.G.

### **Chief Public Health Inspector :**

CLIFFORD HYDE °

### **Additional Public Health Inspector :**

J. ERIC BARTON °

°Public Health Inspector's Certificate

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

### INTRODUCTORY LETTER

**SECTION A.** STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF  
THE AREA. PAGE 5.

**SECTION B.** GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH  
SERVICES IN THE AREA. PAGE 13.

**SECTION C.** PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER  
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.  
PAGE 15.

**SECTION D.** SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE  
AREA.  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC  
HEALTH INSPECTOR. PAGE 21.

Public Health Department,  
5 Dalton Square, Lancaster

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Lancaster Rural District Council*

I have the pleasure to present for your consideration this Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Lancaster Rural District, in respect of the year ending 31st December, 1971. The form and content follow the usual pattern and are in accordance with the Department of Health Circular 1/72.

A more accurate estimate of the population has followed the 1971 national census, and it does appear that the previous year's estimate was just a little generous, so that there has been a modest downward adjustment to 17,130 persons. Nevertheless, this is still a great number of people. One third of our 6,000 houses have been erected within the past ten years, and many of the older properties have been improved as a result of the Council's far-seeing and generous policy of financial assistance. It is a mystery to me why "they"—the government—did not realise years ago, that it is cheaper to give an elderly house a face-lift, than to demolish and rebuild.

The number of live births fell by 10%, and this year will again show a reduction. This decline has been a national trend for several years now, and can only be due to deliberate family limitation, perhaps contributed to in part by the Abortion Act.

Deaths were much the same as in recent years, and exceeded births by 74. This is not so startling as the absolute figures might indicate at first sight. About a quarter of our population are pensioners, so in order to be able to compare our birth and death figures with the rest of the country, we adopt a statistical manoeuvre, to produce adjusted live birth and death rates. On so doing, the adjusted birth rate does in fact exceed the adjusted death rate, so we are not a declining community after all!



During the year, our joint sewage treatment plant at Crag Bank was brought into use, and officially opened by the two local Members of Parliament. This plant is quite the most up to date in the country, producing a high standard of effluent, and also making more land available for development, if required. One cannot help but be proud of this achievement, which will do so much to maintain the unique beauty of the coastline round the Bay.

Another success story, of which the final chapter is now being written, is the victory in our battle against the milk-borne disease, Brucellosis. The first episodes followed in quick succession. First came the accredited herd scheme, to ensure a supply of healthy cattle, then the enhanced payments for brucella free milk, and finally towards the end of the year, the first eradication areas were defined. The result will be that Brucellosis will become as unusual a finding, as cattle tuberculosis. In this latter case, we have now reached the situation that if a cow is found to be a positive T.B. reactor, then we look for a human source.

However healthy and pleasant an area may appear, there is always more that can be achieved to give the residents a better enjoyment of life. It is impossible to mark time, in Public Health. To try to do so, would inevitably mean re-gression, so I am not unduly perturbed at the remark "you are always wanting us to spend more money, doctor". I should like to see a move towards smoke control, we are concerning ourselves with noise pollution, keep a careful watch on the rural bus services, and there are still houses with septic tanks, right in the centre of Hest Bank that should be given the benefits of mains sewerage.

I thank the Members once again, for their interest in our work, and record my appreciation of the dedicated work of my colleagues in the Public Health Department.

I have the honour to be,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,  
J. V. DYER,  
Medical Officer of Health.

**SECTION A.**

**STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS  
OF THE AREA.**

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

---

Area in acres	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	52,982
Population (Census 1971)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	17,091
Registrar General's estimate of home population (mid-year 1971)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	17,130
Number of inhabited houses 1971 (according to rate books)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6,379
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1961)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,658
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,396
Rateable Value	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	£807,650
Sum represented by a penny rate	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	£8,076

The District is largely rural in character with popular residential areas in several of its sixteen parishes.

Agriculture is the most important, if not the largest industry. Other industries are quarrying, building, textiles and catering for tourists and holiday makers.

By far the largest industrial undertaking is the Trimpell petroleum refinery at Middleton, which provides employment for a considerable number of people from the Rural District.



# SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR YEAR 1971

	M.	F.	Total
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate ....)	93	98	191
(Illegitimate) ....	5	5	10
Total ....	98	103	201
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 est. population ....			11.7
Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 est. population ....			13.8
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births ....			5.0
STILL BIRTHS (Legitimate ....)	2	2	4
(Illegitimate) .....	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ....	2	2	4
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			20
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS ....	100	105	205
INFANT DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE			
Legitimate ....	1	Nil	1
Illegitimate .....	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ....	1	Nil	1
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ....			5
INFANT DEATHS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE ....	1	Nil	1
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ....			5
INFANT DEATHS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE	Nil	Nil	Nil
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			Nil
INFANT DEATHS UNDER 1 WEEK PLUS STILL BIRTHS ....	2	2	4
Peri-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live and still births ....			20
DEATHS FROM MATERNAL CAUSES .....			NIL
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live and and still births ....			NIL
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES ....	147	128	275
Crude Mortality Rate per 1,000 est. population ....			16.1
Adjusted Mortality Rate per 1,000 est. population ....			11.6

**TABLE 1. COMPARATIVE ATISTICS FOR 1971 AND PERIOD 1966-70**

	Live births		Deaths (all causes)		Still births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality		Total		Neo-natal	
	No. registered	Crude Rate per 1,000 population	No. registered	Crude Rate per 1,000 population	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births
Year 1971	201	*11.7	275	†16.1	4	20.0	Nil	Nil	1	5.0	1	5		
„ 1970	222	12.9	277	16.1	3	13.0	Nil	Nil	2	9.0	1	5		
„ 1969	223	12.9	261	15.1	2	9.0	Nil	Nil	6	27.0	4	18		
„ 1968	228	13.2	271	15.7	3	13.0	Nil	Nil	3	13.0	1	4		
„ 1967	247	14.5	263	15.5	2	8.0	Nil	Nil	1	4.0	Nil	Nil		
„ 1966	246	14.9	220	13.3	3	12.0	Nil	Nil	1	4.1	Nil	Nil		
Average														
5 years	—	13.7	—	15.1	—	11.0	—	Nil	—	11.4	—	5.4		
1966-1970														

\* Adjusted live birth-rate (comparability factor 1.18) = 13.8 per 1,000 population.

† Adjusted deathrate (comparability factor 0.72) = 11.6 per 1,000 population.

## COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

1. **Population.** The population as determined by the national census, was 17,091 inhabitants, and the mid-year estimate 17,130. Thus the Registrar-general's estimate for the previous year was fairly accurate (17,180).  
What is so impressive, is the great increase since the previous census of 1961, when the number was only 14,018.  
To take this a stage further, in the 30 years 1931-1961, the number of houses increased from 2,000 to 4,000, then increased by the same number, to 6,000 in the following 10 years.
2. **Births.** There were the fewest live births since the war—201, a decrease of 10% from the previous three years. This was contrary to the national trends, when in those years, the number of births had fallen, and then risen in 1971. However in this present year, 1972, all over the country, the birth rate is showing a quite unexpected reduction.
3. **Deaths.** The total was much the same as in the past few years, and after correcting to allow for the atypical age—sex structure of the population, the death rate was the same as that for England and Wales as a whole. What is quite remarkable, is the advanced ages of death; over half were above 75 years of age, and over one third above 80.  
Once again, coronary thrombosis was the most frequent cause of death, particularly in the younger age groups (45—65 years of age), but I continue to be saddened at the unnecessarily high number of men dying from cancer of the lung.
4. **Infant Mortality.** Only one baby died before reaching its first birthday. Any infant death is a tragedy, but in this case, the cause was due to a condition existing before birth, and thus not due to the environment, which is more under human control.
5. **Long-term Trends in Vital Statistics.** A much more reliable picture of the long-term changes in the birth and death rates in the District can be obtained when the yearly variations, which for statistical reasons may occur at irregular intervals, have been smoothed out as in Table 2 overleaf. This shows the birth and death rates expressed as averages of each 10 year period between 1891-1970, and from these certain trends can be traced and conclusions drawn with reasonable safety. Thus the distinct fall in infant and maternal mortality is in marked contrast to the rising tide of deaths from cancer of the lung and other forms of cancer.



**TABLE 2. VITAL STATISTICS LANCASTER R.D.**

The principal vital statistics for the eight decennial periods between 1891 and 1970, together with those for 1971, are given below:—

	Live Births	Still Births	Deaths (all causes)	Infant Mortality	Maternal Mortality	Cancer (Deaths)							
Mean of 10 years	Estimated population (all ages)	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 est. population	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 est. population	No. of infant deaths regd.	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of maternal deaths regd.	Rate per 1,000 live & still-births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 est. population
1891-1900	13,224	374.4	28.3	§	§	217.5	16.4	46.7	125	§	§	§	§
1901-1910	8,937	199.7	22.3	§	§	120.2	13.4	19.4	97	§	§	5.8	0.65
1911-1920	*9,001) †8,702)	165.3	18.4	§	§	120.5	13.8	13.7	83	0.6	§	10.9	1.25
1921-1930	9,332	161.5	17.3	§	§	120.3	12.9	9.6	59	0.6	§	11.6	1.24
1931-1940	*9,829) †9,857)	135.7	13.8	6.6	46	135.2	13.7	7.8	57	1.0	7.03	15.4	1.56
1941-1950	11,002	165.3	15.0	3.6	21.4	148	13.5	6.5	39.4	0.4	2.37	20	1.82
1951-1960	12,719	180.3	14.2	3.1	16.8	172.3	13.5	4.8	27.5	0.1	0.53	25.4	2.00
1961-1970	15,995	218	13.6	2.9	18.1	241	15.1	2.8	13.3	Nil	Nil	47.4	2.96
1971	17,130	201	11.7	4	20.0	275	16.1	1	5.0	Nil	Nil	50	2.92

\* For calculation of birth rate. † For calculation of death rate. § Not available.

NOTE—1. From 1950 deaths from Hodgkin's disease, leukaemia and aleukæmia are included in the total of cancer deaths.

2. The population estimates and numbers of registered deaths for the years 1940-49, inclusive, relate to civilians only.

3. The decrease in population at the change of the century was due to boundary alterations.

TABLE 3

**CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH DURING  
THE YEAR 1971**

Cause of Death	M.	F.	Total
B19(2) Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus ....	1	2	3
B19(3) Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ....	6	3	9
B19(4) Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine ....	2	3	5
B19(6) Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	9	—	9
B19(7) Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ....	—	2	2
B19(8) Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ....	—	1	1
B19(9) Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate ....	5	—	5
B19(10) Leukaemia ....	4	—	4
B19(11) Other Malignant Neoplasms ....	4	8	12
B21 Diabetes Mellitus ....	—	1	1
B46(1) Other Endocrine, etc. Disease ....	1	—	1
B46(4) Multiple Sclerosis ....	—	1	1
B46(5) Other Diseases of Nervous System ....	—	1	1
B26 Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ....	1	2	3
B27 Hypertensive Disease ....	2	1	3
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease ....	43	37	80
B29 Other Forms of Heart Disease ....	11	15	26
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease ....	21	24	45
B46(6) Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	5	3	8
B32 Pneumonia ....	4	9	13
B33(1) Bronchitis and Emphysema ....	6	1	7
B46(7) Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	2	—	2
B34 Peptic Ulcer ....	1	1	2
B36 Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia ....	—	1	1
B37 Cirrhosis of Liver ....	1	—	1
B46(8) Other Diseases of Digestive System ....	—	1	1
B39 Hyperplasia of Prostate ....	2	—	2
B46(9) Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	—	1	1
B46(11) Diseases of Muscular-Skeletal System	1	1	2
B42 Congenital Anomalies ....	1	—	1
B45 Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions ....	—	1	1
BE47 Motor Vehicle Accidents ....	7	2	9
BE48 All Other Accidents ....	4	4	8
BE49 Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries ....	3	2	5
<b>TOTAL OF CAUSES</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>275</b>



TABLE 4. DEATHS CLASSIFIED BY AGE GROUPS AND PARISH — JANUARY-DECEMBER, 1971

PARISH	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-	75-	80+	Total
Ashton-with-Stodday															0
Bolton-le-Sands									1	1	7	19	14	10	52
Cockerham														4	4
Ellel									1		4	5	3	9	22
Heaton-with-Oxcliffe									1	1		1	1		4
Middleton									1		1	3	1	2	8
Overton											2	1	3	3	9
Over Wyresdale											1	3			4
Priest Hutton															0
Scotforth														1	1
Silverdale											9	15	16	36	77
Slyne-with-Hest	1	1								1	11	18	4	18	54
Thurnham									1		1			5	7
Warton											8	5	2	10	25
Yealand Conyers														2	2
Yealand Redmayne								1			1	2	2		6
TOTALS	1	1					1	1	5	3	45	72	47	100	275

**SECTION B.**

**GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES  
IN THE AREA**

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.** The bacteriological examination of milk, water, ice cream and foodstuffs, as well as of specimens of faces, nose and throat swabs, etc., from individual patients is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Preston. Chemical analysis of water, milk and foodstuffs, under the Food and Drugs Act 1955 is carried out by the County Analyst.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.** Ambulance Services are administered by the Divisional Health Office of the Lancashire County Council, Health Division No. 2; Lancaster; the telephone number of the ambulance station is Broughton 2678.

(c) **Domiciliary Services.** The services of District Nurses Midwives, and Health Visitors, to look after patients in their own homes, are provided by the Lancashire County Council, acting as the Local Health Authority. These services for the Lancaster Rural District are administered from the Divisional Health Office at Slyne Road, Lancaster. Lancaster 2392.

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.** The following Centres and Clinics catering for the area have been established by the Lancashire County Council:—

**School Clinics :**

- (1) Market Street, Carnforth.
- (2) Ashton Road, Lancaster.
- (3) Ryelands House, Lancaster.
- (4) Euston Road, Morecambe.

**Child Welfare Centres :**

- (1) Memorial Hall, Hest Bank.
- (2) The Village Institute, Galgate.
- (3) Gaskell Memorial Hall, Silverdale.
- (4) Congregational Church Hall, Bolton-le-Sands.
- (5) Parish Hall, Cockerham.
- (6) Memorial Hall, Overton.

The following clinics are administered by the North Lancs. and South Westmorland Hospital Management Committee:—

- (1) Tuberculosis—Beaumont Hospital, Lancaster.
- (2) Venereal Diseases—Special Treatment Centre, Royal Lancaster Infirmary.

**(e) Hospitals.**

**Infectious Diseases :—**Beaumont Hospital, at Slyne Road, Lancaster.

**Other Cases :—**The Lancaster Royal Infirmary, The Queen Victoria Hospital, Morecambe, Lancaster Moor Hospital, Royal Albert Hospital, Lancaster.

## SECTION C.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

**TABLE 5. CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1971**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total cases at all ages	AGE PERIOD — YEARS												25 and over	Age unknown	Total Deaths
		0-	1-	2-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	Age unknown	
Measles (excluding rubella)	6	—	—	1	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	NIL
Dysentery	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	NIL
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	NIL

  

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total cases at all ages	AGE PERIOD — YEARS												25 and over	Age unknown	Total Deaths
		0-	1-	2-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	Age unknown	
Infective Jaundice	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	NIL
Tuberculosis — Respiratory	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	NIL



**TABLE 6. INCIDENCE OF CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES LANCASTER R.D., 1945-1971**

YEAR or period of Years	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	Whooping Cough	Acute Polio- myelitis	Dysentery	Food Poison- ing	Resp. Tubercu- losis	Non-resp. Tubercu- losis	Tubercu- losis (All Forms)
Mean of 5 years 1945-49	7.0	2.4	37.6	11.0	0.6	Nil	Nil	9.2	3.0	12.2
Mean of 5 years 1950-54	9.8	0.2	61.4	19.0	1.2	1.8	6.0	9.0	3.0	12.0
Mean of 5 years 1955-59	5.8	Nil	107	8.4	0.4	1.0	1.2	7.2	1.8	9.4
Mean of 5 years 1960-64	6.0	Nil	80	5.2	0.2	3.3	0.4	4.2	1.8	6.0
Mean of 5 years 1965-69	6.2	Nil	105	1.2	Nil	5.8	0.4	3.0	0.6	3.6
1970	4	Nil	78	Nil	Nil	2	2	5	1	6
1971	1	Nil	6	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	5	Nil	5

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1. **Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever.** Again, no case of diphtheria has occurred in the area; In fact no case has been notified since 1950. This must not induce any feeling of complacency about this serious disease. Small outbreaks in industrial areas in the last few years have shown that the condition can return unless a high level of immunised children is maintained.

Only one case of scarlet fever was notified in 1971.

2. **Measles and Whooping Cough.** 6 cases of measles were notified during the year. 1970 was a "measles year" with 79 cases, so it was to be expected that this year would be a quiet one. Measles Vaccination is now offered to all children attending our child health clinics, and it appears to give good protection. It seems doubtful whether the accepted rate is yet high enough to prevent another "measles year" occurring in 1972.

For the third successive year, no case of whooping cough has occurred in the area. The policy of offering immunisation with a triple vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough to babies in their first year, continued. This is normally combined with oral polio vaccine given at the same time.

3. **Dysentery and Food Poisoning.** Only 2 cases of dysentery were notified during the year. Despite the small number, your Officers are constantly aware of the dangers of serious outbreaks of food-borne disease, in an area which contains one large holiday camp and many caravan and camping sites, and they continue to carry out regular supervision, and advise on matters of hygiene.

4. **Tuberculosis.** Five new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified. There were no deaths ascribed to this disease.

Since 1957, vaccination against tuberculosis has been offered to secondary school children in their thirteenth year, and about 80% accept and receive this vaccination.

5. **Brucellosis.** The Public Health Inspectors continue to investigate milk samples for this disease, which can cause serious illness and prolonged ill-health in man. Six cows were found to be infected and were sent for slaughter.

As a result of the Government's accredited herd scheme, a considerable number of farms in the District now have Brucella-free cattle, and in the Autumn the northern parishes were included in the country's first Brucellosis eradication area.

6. **Trend of Incidence of Infectious Disease 1945-1971.** Table 6 shows the average number of cases of infectious diseases, notified in quinquennial periods from 1945.

7. **Immunisation and Vaccination Schemes.** Under the National Health Service a comprehensive free service for immunisation and vaccination of the public is available. Protection against diphtheria, whooping cough, rubella, measles, tetanus, poliomyelitis, smallpox and tuberculosis is available at the school clinics and child health centres and from family Doctors.

117 Girls in the area were vaccinated against rubella (german measles) in the course of the year. This minor illness can have serious consequences if it occurs early in pregnancy, as it can cause damage to the developing baby. The vaccine is therefore offered to girls in their thirteenth year.



# **Number of children resident in the area protected during 1971 against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus Poliomylitis, and Measles**

	PRIMARY -- BY YEAR OF BIRTH						RE-INFORCEMENT -- BY YEAR OF BIRTH					
	1971	1970	1969	1968	1964 1967	Others under 16 Total	1971	1970	1969	1968	1964 1967	Others under 16 Total
Children protected against --												
Diphtheria	4	105	40	4	6	9 168	—	4	5	2	242	5 258
Whooping Cough	4	98	25	4	1	— 132	—	3	3	—	2	— 8
Tetanus	4	105	40	4	6	14 173	—	4	5	2	241	74 326
Poliomylitis	3	106	45	5	10	13 182	—	2	2	2	244	79 329
Measles	—	31	44	7	12	— 94	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rubella	—	—	—	—	—	117 117	—	—	—	—	—	—

**SECTION D.**

**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES  
OF THE DISTRICT.  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**



# Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector upon the Sanitary Circumstances of the District

## HOUSING

### Completed Council Housing Schemes.

The Council's completed housing schemes provide accommodation as detailed below:—

Bolton-le-Sands	74 houses, 20 flats, and 10 bungalows.
Cockerham	10 houses.
Ellel	140 houses, 8 flats, 4 shops and houses and 10 bungalows.
Heaton-with-Oxcliffe	4 houses.
Middleton	56 houses and 2 shops and houses.
Overton	16 houses.
Over Wyresdale	4 houses.
Priest Hutton	4 houses.
Scotforth	4 houses.
Silverdale	26 houses, 8 flats, and 6 bungalows.
Slyne-with-Hest	77 houses, 6 flats, 1 shop and house, and 5 bungalows.
Thurnham	22 houses.
Warton	76 houses, 16 flats, and 10 bungalows.
Yealand Redmayne	28 houses, and 5 bungalows.

Total 541 houses, 58 flats, 7 shops and houses, and 46 bungalows.

Total number of all dwellings:— 652.

### Current Council Housing Schemes.

At the end of 1971 there were no Council housing schemes either in hand or contemplated, there being at that time a total of 67 applicants for houses, flats or bungalows and 21 such applicants were housed during the year.

### Private Buildings.

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Ashton-w-Stodday	1	1	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Bolton-le-Sands ....	76	34	34	31	23	25	12
Cockerham ....	6	4	1	3	3	NIL	NIL
Ellel ....	28	30	24	11	2	2	2
Heaton-w -Oxcliffe	2	1	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Middleton ....	1	NIL	5	5	NIL	1	1
Overton ....	25	28	1	1	6	NIL	3
Over Wyresdale	1	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	1	2
Priest Hutton ....	1	1	1	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Scotforth ....	NIL	1	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Silverdale ....	12	15	26	19	9	12	11
Slyne-with-Hest ....	64	38	24	19	7	9	3

Thurnham ....	NIL	1	NIL	4	4	2	1
Warton ....	64	44	20	11	12	8	8
Yealand Conyers	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	1	NIL	NIL
Yealand Redmayne	4	2	NIL	NIL	2	NIL	NIL

At the end of December, 1971, it is estimated that a further 43 properties were in the course of construction.

### Inspections of Dwelling Houses.

Number of houses inspected under the provisions of the Housing Acts .....	192
Number of inspections involved .....	426
Number of houses found not in all respects fit .....	29
Number rendered fit after service of Notice .....	29
Number found to be unfit for human habitation .....	NIL
Number demolished as a result of formal or informal action .....	NIL
Number closed as a result of formal or informal action	NIL

**Overcrowding.** Nothing can be added to what has been said in previous years, overcrowding no longer presenting a serious problem. It is likely, of course, that an isolated case will be discovered from time to time, and it is felt that such cases should receive high priority when a Council house in the locality becomes available for letting.

### Slum Clearance

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government in Circular 92/69 dated the 24th November, 1969, requested all Local Housing Authorities to consider what they could and ought to be doing to clear remaining slums, and to inform him what their programmes for the next 4 years were to be.

It was felt that, having regard to the extent of which house owners in general in this District already have taken advantage of Improvement Grants, and the fact that, as far as can be ascertained, all dwelling houses within the District which have not so far been modernised, are worthy of improving, thus they cannot be regarded as slum property. Therefore a NIL return was made regarding any programme of action during the next 4 years. Any individual unfit house that may come to light will be dealt with as the law permits, by the serving of a Time and Place Notice in the first place.

Over 100 unfit houses have been dealt with formally under the provisions of the various Housing Acts since the War, and there can be no question that Improvement Grants have played an important part in the preservation of many dwellings, which otherwise would have been subject to demolition orders or closing orders.



## Improvement of Houses

The definite increase in discretionary grant applications, received, approved and implemented, which was reported to you last year, has been maintained during 1971. These schemes continue to help to produce some excellent dwellings, which otherwise would become unfit for human habitation sooner or later, in many cases. All potential applicants are given every help and encouragement to submit their formal proposals to you with a minimum of fuss or delay, and furthermore, these works are largely carried out by local builders and contractors, so that there is very little interference with any public or private house building programme, but on the contrary they assist in providing employment in the District.

The widespread publicity which has been and is being given to the availability of these grants, undoubtedly is largely responsible for the continued large number of enquiries from the public on this subject. On the whole, this publicity has been well presented, but it is thought necessary to emphasize that disrepair works alone (such as re-roofing or re-pointing a house) are not grant earning, by themselves, but can only be allowed, when at least the same value of improvement work, as distinct from repair work, is contemplated.

Regarding houses without standard amenities (bathrooms, etc) the figure for the District, approximately 270, is very low comparatively speaking, and is falling each year by an appreciable amount. This is due mainly to the fact that many of these properties, which hitherto have been occupied by ageing tenants, became vacant, and have been purchased by younger people, whose first enquiry is regarding the possibility of a grant towards installing such amenities. So progress continues at a reasonable pace towards the 100% goal.

The coming into operation of the Housing Act 1969 brought new benefits to house owners in so far as, in respect of Standard Grants, the total normal maximum amount was increased from £155 to £200 per house and the higher limit Grants were increased to a maximum of £450 per house. These latter Grants are applicable in any one of the following circumstances:—

1. If it is necessary to provide a bathroom either by building an extension or converting an outbuilding.
2. If main drainage is not available and it thus becomes necessary to construct a septic tank.
3. If in order to carry out the Standard Improvement, it becomes necessary to provide for the first time a piped water supply.

As regards discretionary grants, the statutory maximum was raised from £400 per house to £1,000 per house and this Council has been operating within this new limit since March, 1971.

The following details summarise the applications for grants and the payments of grants during 1970.

**1. Discretionary Grants.**

Total number of applications received ....	37
Total number of applications approved ....	37
Total amount of Grants approved ....	£14,798
Average amount per dwelling ....	£400
Completed Discretionary Grant schemes ....	29
Total amount of Grants paid ....	£11,262
Average amount per dwelling ....	£387

**2. Standard Grants.**

Total number of applications received ....	22
Total number of applications approved ....	22
Schemes completed ....	14
Total amount of Standards Grants paid ....	£2,154
Average amount per dwelling ....	£153

**Housing General.**

It is estimated that there are now within the District approximately 6,379 inhabited dwellings compared with 6,339 at the end of 1970. Of these, there are 4,379 or there-abouts which have been built since the Great War, practically all of which are equipped with modern amenities such as bathrooms, hot water supplies and internal W.C.'s. Of the remaining 2,000 dwellings, it is estimated that there are now approximately 270 dwellings without these amenities. These latter are almost all stone built with the exception of the greater part of Millhead in the Parish of Warton and certain houses comprising part of Main Road, Galgate in the Parish of Ellel, which are brick built, so that it can be stated that they are almost all substantial buildings well worthy of improvement.



## WATER SUPPLIES

The following Authorities supply water in the district:—

**Lune Valley Water Board.** Lune Valley Water Board supplies the parishes of Scotforth, Slyne-with-Hest, Bolton-le-Sands, Middleton, Overton, Ellel, Priest Hutton, Yealand Conyers, Yealand Redmayne, Silverdale, Warton and Heaton-with-Oxcliffe, and part of Ashton-with-Stodday.

**Fylde Water Board.** Supplies the parishes of Cockerham, Thurnham and part of Ashton-with-Stodday.

Part of the parish of Over Wyresdale is supplied by private mains which are the property of the Earl of Sefton.

**Origin and particulars of Water.** Lune Valley Water Board (the parishes of Scotforth, Slyne-with-Hest, Bolton-le-Sands, Middleton, Overton, part of Ashton-with-Stodday and Heaton-with-Oxcliffe). The water supplied in these parishes is either moorland water from the gathering grounds in Over Wyresdale, which is subjected to mechanical filtration and chlorination at Langthwaite and Scotforth filter houses before distribution obtained from the Thirlmere pipe line or abstracted from the River Lune. The Thirlmere water is from moorlands, being subjected to rough screening and chlorination near its source. The only exception to the above detail is in respect of certain mains carrying raw water from either of the gathering grounds of the reservoirs, or from the reservoirs, to the filterhouse supplying Bailrigg Lane area in the same parish.

Lune Valley Water Board (parishes of Ellel, Priest Hutton, Yealand Conyers, Yealand Redmayne, Silverdale and a small part of Warton). This water is also obtained from the Thirlmere pipe line.

Lune Valley Water Board (Warton parish). The water supplied to the Warton parish is obtained from the Reservoir at Withets. The gathering ground is of a moorland nature but is liable to animal pollution. The board however provides an effective chlorination and filtration plant, and there is also a connection to the Thirlmere pipe line.

**Fylde Water Board.** This is also moorland water from the gathering grounds in the Pennine Range, and is subjected to chlorination and filtration before distribution.

**New Services.** During the year 43 services were laid to new dwellings. A mains supply is now provided to 6,248 dwellings. being about 98 per cent of all the dwellings in the district. The remaining 147 houses, etc., obtain supplies from other sources such as roof water, wells and springs.



## WATER SAMPLES, 1971

Address	Source	Result
February, 1971		Highly Satisfactory
Manor Crescent, Slyne-with-Hest	Highly	Satisfactory
Oakwood Grove, Bolton-le-Sands	Highly	Satisfactory
Stainton Street, Millhead, Warton	Highly	Satisfactory
Main Street, Warton	Highly	Satisfactory
Yealand Road, Yealand Conyers	Highly	Satisfactory
Dolphinholme Village, Ellel	Highly	Satisfactory
Beach Avenue, Galgate, Ellel	Highly	Satisfactory
Main Street, Galgate, Ellel	Highly	Satisfactory
Victoria Terrace, Glasson Dock,		
Thurnham	Highly	Satisfactory
Conder Green, Ashton-with-Stodday	Highly	Satisfactory
March, 1971		
Manor Crescent, Slyne-with-Hest	Highly	Satisfactory
Oakwood Grove, Bolton-le-Sands	Highly	Satisfactory
William Street, Millhead, Warton	Highly	Satisfactory
Main Street, Warton	Highly	Satisfactory
Yealand Road, Yealand Conyers	Highly	Satisfactory
April, 1971		
Dolphinholme Village, Ellel	Highly	Satisfactory
Beech Avenue, Galgate, Ellel	Highly	Satisfactory
Main Street, Cockerham	Highly	Satisfactory
Victoria Terrace, Glasson Dock,		
Thurnham	Highly	Satisfactory
Conder Green Ashton-with-Stodday	Highly	Satisfactory
Hall Grove, Middleton	Highly	Satisfactory
Main Street, Overton	Highly	Satisfactory
May, 1971		
Manor Crescent, Slyne-with-Hest	Highly	Satisfactory
Oakwood Grove, Bolton-le-Sands	Highly	Satisfactory
William Street, Millhead, Warton	Highly	Satisfactory
Main Street, Warton	Highly	Satisfactory
Yealand Road, Yealand Conyers	Highly	Satisfactory
July, 1971		
Dolphinholme Village, Ellel	Highly	Satisfactory
Beach Avenue, Galgate, Ellel	Highly	Satisfactory
Main Street, Cockerham	Highly	Satisfactory
Victoria Terrace, Glasson Dock,		
Thurnham	Highly	Satisfactory
Conder Cottages, Ashton-with-Stodday	Highly	Satisfactory
Manor Crescent, Slyne-with-Hest	Highly	Satisfactory
Oakwood Grove, Bolton-le-Sands	Highly	Satisfactory
William Street, Millhead, Warton	Highly	Satisfactory
Main Street, Warton	Highly	Satisfactory
The Roods, Warton	Highly	Satisfactory

Address	Source	Result
September, 1971		
Bailrigg Lane, Scotforth		Highly Satisfactory
Beach Avenue, Galgate, Ellel		Highly Satisfactory
Victoria Terrace, Glasson Dock, Thurnham		Highly Satisfactory
Conder Green, Ashton-with-Stodday		Highly Satisfactory
Manor Crescent, Slyne-with-Hest		Highly Satisfactory
Oakwood Grove, Bolton-le-Sands		Highly Satisfactory
William Street, Millhead, Warton		Unsatisfactory
Main Street, Warton		Unsatisfactory
October, 1971		
Dolphinholme Village, Ellel (2 Samples)		Highly Satisfactory
Manor Road, Slyne-with-Hest		Highly Satisfactory
Chapel Street, Galgate, Ellel		Highly Satisfactory
Yealand Road, Yealand Conyers (2 Samples)		Highly Satisfactory
Church Brow, Bolton-le-Sands		Highly Satisfactory
Chapel Lane, Galgate, Ellel		Highly Satisfactory
William Street, Millhead, Warton		Highly Satisfactory
Main Street, Warton		Highly Satisfactory
November, 1971		
Oakwood Grove, Bolton-le-Sands		Highly Satisfactory
Manor Crescent, Slyne-with-Hest		Highly Satisfactory
Beech Avenue, Galgate, Ellel		Highly Satisfactory
Main Street, Cockerham		Highly Satisfactory
Victoria Terrace, Glasson Dock, Thurnham		Highly Satisfactory
Conder Cottages, Conder Green, Ashton-with-Stodday		Highly Satisfactory
Dolphinholme Village, Ellel		Highly Satisfactory
Main Street, Warton		Unsatisfactory
William Street, Millhead, Warton		Unsatisfactory
Yealand Road, Yealand Conyers		Unsatisfactory
December, 1971		
Manor Crescent, Slyne-with-Hest		Highly Satisfactory
Oakwood Grove, Bolton-le-Sands		Highly Satisfactory
William Street, Millhead, Warton		Highly Satisfactory
Main Street, Warton		Highly Satisfactory



I will not dwell too long upon the quality of water as supplied by the Fylde Water Board, except to say that, for as long as routine sampling of this supply has been carried out by this Department, I cannot remember receiving any report other than "Highly Satisfactory". It follows therefore, that this excellent record again was maintained during 1971.

Regarding samples taken from the area supplied by the Lune Valley Water Board, likewise they were almost all reported "Highly Satisfactory", with the exception of those from the Warton and Millhead Area, where for the second successive year there were almost 40% found to be unsatisfactory. The matter was taken up with Officials of the Board in the early part of November, from which time a chlorine residual content of 0.1 parts per million was maintained, and the mains from which unsatisfactory samples had indicated a local build up of bacteria, were flushed and will be flushed periodically. So far this treatment appears to have been effective, 6 samples from this area having been reported "Highly Satisfactory".

During the year, following the cleansing, de-scaling and re-lining of the mains in the Dolphinhholme, Bay Horse Area, there were a series of complaints received from these parts of Ellel, regarding the discolouration of the Water at certain times. Investigations by the Board revealed the cause, and this matter was rectified during October, since when no further complaints have been forthcoming.

The storage reservoir on land at the top of Wallings Lane, Silverdale was completed and brought into use during early May. This important improvement will ensure a more constant supply in the area, particularly to certain elevated properties in this Parish, should there be a shutdown of the main supplying Silverdale.

Secondary Chlorination of the Board's supplies from Thirlmere is now carried out at each of the three draw-off points, viz:—Borwick Meter House, Welby Crag Meter House and Green Bank Meter House, thereby maintaining a satisfactory chlorine residual in the areas supplied from these draw-off points.

### **Assistance in Provision of Separate Water Services for Houses**

Section 96 of the Housing Act 1964 gave power to a Local Authority if they think fit, to give assistance in respect of the provision of a separate water service pipe for a house which has a piped supply of water from a water main, but no separate service pipe. Since this legislation became operative the following numbers of dwelling houses in the District have so benefited at an average

cost of £20 per house, which qualifies for an average grant of £10 per house, on the basis of the grant being 50% of the final costs of the work, under normal circumstances.

1965	—	3 Dwelling Houses
1966	—	10 Dwelling Houses
1967	—	9 Dwelling Houses
1968	—	8 Dwelling Houses
1969	—	2 Dwelling Houses
1970	—	7 Dwelling Houses
1971	—	7 Dwelling Houses
<hr/>		
Total	—	46 Dwelling Houses
<hr/>		

## SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The Public Health Department is indebted to the Surveyor for the following information relating to the methods of drainage and sewage disposal:—

**Cockerham.** Cockerham village and Housing site is sewered and the sewage treated by means of a septic tank and rotary filter. The effluent is pumped from the works via a 4ins. diam. rising main, direct to the tidal River Cocker. This method of disposal of the effluent was brought into operation in mid-January 1958. The Sewage Disposal Works at Cockerham, is seriously overloaded, and consistently produces effluents which have overall very polluting characteristics and is only tolerated by reason of the discharge being to tidal waters. An experimental installation aimed at improving the overall quality of the effluent has been designed and will be under test during 1972.

**Thurnham (Higher Thurnham).** The sewage from the few houses in this hamlet is discharged into a number of separate tanks, the effluents eventually finding their way into drainage dykes. No complaints regarding pollution of the dykes have been received and no such pollution has been noted.

**Thurnham (Lower Thurnham).** This hamlet is sewered, and as far as can be ascertained, there is no treatment of the sewage prior to its discharge into a drainage dyke. Nevertheless, observations over a long period have not indicated that the contamination of the dyke is of anything but a minor nature. This opinion is agreed by the Lancashire River Authority inspector, and, at least for the present, there is no evidence to justify any action being taken against the owner of this private sewerage system.

**Thurnham (Glasson Dock), and Ellet (Galgate).** Glasson Dock is sewered by two separate systems and sewage is discharged crude into the sea via two outfalls.



Galgate is sewered and the sewage is conveyed by means of a long pipe discharging in the tidal portion of the River Conder at Conder Green.

In each instance the effluent is seriously polluting in character and the 9" diameter outfall from Galgate, laid to a very flat gradient, is inadequate for the flow. This sewer requires frequent attention and to facilitate maintenance four new manholes have been constructed on its length.

The ultimate form of development of Glasson Dock and Galgate requires determination before the final scheme for sewerage and sewage treatment can be designed, but it is hoped that some guidance in this will be obtained from the Cockerham experimental installation.

**Dolphinholme** is sewered and the sewage treated by means of a septic tank near Common Bank Farm, and two rotary percolating filters and humus tank by the side of the River Wyre.

The final effluent from the treatment plant has been of excellent quality, the River Authority's qualitative conditions of consent being complied with.

The works were constructed during 1967 and it was then hoped that on site trenching of the humus sludge produced would prove to be a satisfactory means of drainage and disposal for a period of some years at least, and so avoid the cost of drying beds and removal. In practice the sludge did not dry and resulted in the available trenching area having been used and creating a morass which tended to be washed to the river in heavy rainfall. Matters were not helped by the site being a far-from-ideal location for evaporative drying of any sludge, and with gravel clarifiers being used the humus sludge containing a higher proportion of fines than would normally be the case. The position had to be corrected and last year control was achieved by using a sludge pump and tank on an old refuse vehicle chassis and removal by this means of the sludge to tip disposal. This practice proved successful and has been continued during the present year.

**Over Wyresdale.** This Parish being of a scattered nature (1 person to 45 acres) has no drainage system, and no pollution has been found.

**Middleton.** Most of the developed part of this Parish is now sewered. All sewers from the village drain to the pumping station near Garden Terrace, which ejects the sewage through a rising



main and gravity sewer to the sewage treatment works at Middleton Tower Holiday Camp. These works were acquired from the Holiday Camp and adopted as a public sewage disposal works in May 1946.

The effluent from these works, together with some storm water, is pumped via a 6in. diameter rising main into the 18in. diameter sea outfall pipe of an adjoining factory under a terminable agreement, which limits the daily maximum volume of discharge.

The condition of the present works is most unsatisfactory and the Council have approved a comprehensive scheme which includes a system of purification by a Pasveer Ditch and Sedimentation Tanks located on a site at Trailholme Road, Overton. It is hoped that the new works will be operational in 1974.

As in past years in heavy rainfall there has been overflowing of sewage at Garden Terrace Pumping Station, Middleton, and also in the vicinity of the treatment works, due to overloading of the pumps at these locations, and attention when such danger seems imminent is provided as a routine duty.

**Heaton-with Oxcliffe.** All the dwellings in this Parish are separately drained into some form of septic tank, usually provided with a filter compartment. In most cases, however, the only means of disposal of the effluent is by discharging into the open drainage dykes, as the land is far too heavy to allow effective soakage. Furthermore, owing to the level of the water in the dykes, proper downward filtration is rarely possible, and the filter beds mostly are submerged, and merely acting as mechanical filters. As a result, the dykes are frequently silted up with humus and require constant attention from the many owners involved in order to maintain them in a reasonable condition.

As the above conditions cause serious concern to the Council and the Pollution Division of the Lancashire River Authority, and are aggravated in certain combinations of rainfall and high tide, when Oxcliffe Dyke cannot freely discharge to the River Lune, the following proposals are under consideration with a hope of collaboration by the Borough of Morecambe and Heysham in an endeavour to improve the situation.

1. Pump control, possibly by screw pumps, of Oxcliffe Dyke to lift all water above a pre-determined level over the breast wall when the tidal flaps are closed, the operation level to be set to safeguard the affected properties.
2. Instead of all roof water going into foul sewers and so increasing sewer sizes and also having to be pumped at all times, and only road water going to Oxcliffe Dyke, in the large areas off Westgate available for possible development, all to go to Oxcliffe Dyke other than an allowance of roof water for flushing the foul sewers if considered necessary.
3. Resulting from the reduced flow in the Westgate foul sewers by the acceptance of (2), the possibility of discharging to these sewers the small volume of foul sewage from existing properties and the very minor area considered for further development in the Rural District in this vicinity.
4. The possibility of the pumping station in (1) being paid for by all developers who add any surface water in future to Oxcliffe Dyke.

The catchment area contributing to the Dyke is under detailed investigation by the Borough.

**Overton.** Most of the village is sewered, and the sewage is pumped to the Middleton treatment works, and all the above matters relating to proposals for Middleton apply to Overton.

Property now on septic tanks will eventually be connected to the new works designed for the Trailholme Road site.

No serious difficulties have been experienced in the sewage system for the village, and at Sunderland Point in this parish, there are a few private outfall pipes discharging direct into the tidal River Lune.



**Scotforth.** This Parish is also of a scattered nature (1 person to 8½ acres) and has no drainage system.

**Ashton-with-Stodday.** There is no sewage scheme for this Parish which has only 36 properties in it.

**Slyne-with-Hest.** The greatest part of this parish is sewered and the sewage is fully treated at the disposal works at Hest Bank. A good standard of purification is maintained, the effluent on analysis complying with the Lancashire River Authority's qualitative conditions of consent.

Some difficulty is experienced, however, in the drying out of primary sludge, this not being satisfactory after up to three months on some drying beds.

At Sunningdale Crescent pumping station the new submersible pump which was installed during 1969, has proved to be most efficient, and silently deals with the extremely large volume of infiltration and surface water which used to have both ejectors running continuously at times at this station and resulted in complaints about the noise.

The installation was so successful that to provide a relief and stand-by service a second submersible pump has been installed.

**Bolton-le-Sands.** The benefits of the Joint Sewerage Scheme with Carnforth Urban District Council were first seen in May, 1971, when a gradual introduction of sewage flows for treatment at the new Crag Bank Works took place.

This modern treatment plant is now fully operational and deals with sewage from the Parishes of Bolton-le-Sands and Warton as well as from Carnforth.

Mr. J. Hurst commenced duties as Manager of the works on the 1st January, 1971, and under his control a high standard of purification is consistently achieved.

In the Parish of Bolton-le-Sands two new pumping stations serve the Coastal Road properties, and one for the group of dwellings on the shore at St. Michaels Lane. The existing pumping stations at Rydal Road and Monkswell are adapted to the new scheme, and the combined flow from these five is collected at a major pumping station in St. Nicholas Lane from which up to 1,200 gallons per minute of sewage is pumped to the treatment plant, wet weather flow in excess of this capacity being overflowed by gravity via a new 36 in. diameter outfall to the shore.

Excluded from connection are ten dwellings and four caravan sites having 58 water closets, these being located between the railway and the coast in the parish of Bolton-le-Sands and here the existing arrangement of septic tank treatment still continue.

Interesting features of the scheme included a crossing under the main railway and a canal crossing, a further canal crossing for incorporation in the works having been carried out in advance of this scheme.

Part of the works are also constructed in tunnel due to restrictions in deep openings on the the section of the A.6 at Bolton-le-Sands. Approximately 500 yards of 5 ft. 6 in. internal diameter tunnel, including about 200 yards on curve has been constructed and the tunnel lined out to 39 in. internal diameter.

**Warton.** As mentioned above the sewage from this parish is dealt with in the combined Bolton-le-Sands, Carnforth, Warton scheme. A brief outline of this scheme, as it affects the parish of Warton is as follows:—

An ancillary pumping station serves Sands Lane, and this flow together with the flow at present in the outfall sewer is collected at a pumping station at the rear of Gardner Road and



near the "Shovel Inn". At this pumping station there is separation of wet weather flows in excess of the capacity of the dry weather pumps, of which there are two, each capable of lifting 345 gallons per minute up to the new pumping station at Millhead which in turn comprises duplicate pumps, each capable of raising 1,500 gallons per minute up to the treatment works from Carnforth. Millhead and Warton.

The wet weather pumps at Gardner Road are in duplicate, and each is capable of lifting 6,000 gallons per minute of excess flows through a 21 in. diameter pipeline into the River Keer.

**Yealand Conyers.** There are no public sewers in this small Parish. The largest group of houses, are, however, drained into a septic tank with rotary percolating filter. No pollution of water courses takes place. Several cesspools are emptied by the Council at the request of the owners and the contents disposed of on the land.

**Yealand Redmayne.** The Housing Site and part of the village is sewered to a disposal tank, which drains into a duplicate system of land drains.

A new effluent disposal area was brought into use during 1955 and it would appear that what had become a very difficult problem before that date, has been successfully overcome.

**Priest Hutton.** There is no public drainage system for this Parish. All the property is drained into cesspools or septic tanks and filters.

All but four houses in this Parish have been provided with modern septic tank drainage systems, and pollution of the stream is now less evident.

**Silverdale.** The whole of Silverdale being built on solid rock, has no public sewers, with the exception of the systems draining the Council Housing Sites and a few properties adjoining. In the great majority of cases each house has its own Septic Tank or Cesspool, and regular arrangements exist for emptying the cesspools and disposing of the contents onto land. This arrangement in the past has proved very satisfactory but in recent years some concern has been expressed over the practise of disposing of Septic Tank effluents into surface water through the fissures in the limestone strata throughout Silverdale. As a result the University of Lancaster was asked whether an investigation into this matter could be of interest in connection with their field studies.

The University has co-operated and a long term proposal to give the rate and direction of percolation of sub-soil waters for the area is still under way.

If successful this information will be of immense value, particularly in relation to the remaining areas to be developed at Silverdale, and the enthusiastic help and assistance given by the University is greatly appreciated, the preliminary reports which they have prepared having been most thorough.

### **GENERAL.**

There are approximately 6,345 houses on the water carriage system, 4,489 being connected to the sewers and 1,856 to septic tanks, cesspools, etc. There are also 45 houses which have closets other than water closets.

Grant aided improvement works continued to add to the number of closet conversions carried out during 1971. Thus, by the year end 12 such conversions had been completed, all of which involved the construction of a septic tank system of sewage disposal.

### **DRAINAGE INSPECTIONS.**

(a) **New Drainage.** 89 visits of inspections of new drainage work and proposed drainage work were made during the year, all these visits being concerned with septic tank drainage or trial holes in connection with proposed septic tanks, the supervision of which remains the responsibility of this Department.

These trial holes are required, in order that the type of sub-soil or rock can be inspected and therefore the soakage capability judged. For many years, I have maintained that one of the most important factors of any Septic tank system is the efficiency or otherwise of the method of disposal of the effluent. If this method is into soakaways, as it normally is, and the trial hole indicates that the sub-soil is gravel, sand or shaly rock then it can be said, with every confidence, that this proposed Septic Tank system will go on functioning for years with routine maintenance and cleansing. If however, the trial hole indicates heavy clay, then there is every probability of trouble from a surcharged or over-loaded soakaway. It will be appreciated that no one person's judgement is infallible, particularly having regard to the varying mixture of these and many other types of sub-soil which are from time to time encountered, but the low percentage of failures which follow these trial hole inspections, more than justifies their requirement, prior to the approval of plans.

(b) **Existing Drainage.** During the year, the assistance and advice of a Public Health Inspector was requested on 234 occasions when some defect in the drainage arrangements of a particular house or other property was causing a nuisance. These visits were apart from the many occasions when similar troubles were attended to by Public Health Department Workmen as routine duties. Once again I pay tribute to the skill and loyalty of these hard working servants of the Council.



**REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL**

During 1971, the Refuse Collection and Disposal services of the Council continued to operate in a reasonably efficient manner, the number of occasions when the bonus target was achieved throughout the year exceeded 88% of the whole. It is stressed that these bonuses are by no means gifts, but are truly earned by an easily measured increase based on at least a 10% growth in productivity or work.

Another new vehicle, a Karrier "Gamecock" dual tip refuse collector was purchased and brought into use during the month of May, it being allocated to the Middleton, Overton, Galgate and Dolphinholme round. This vehicle, which is an 18 cub. yard model, incorporates a packer plate, and is ideal for the type of round.

Requests have continued to increase for "Special Collections" which are made under the provisions of the Civic Amenities Act 1967, and are for such items as disused furniture, household equipment, etc., too big to be placed in dustbins. It can be stated that indiscriminate dumping of such refuse has been reduced very considerably by the provision of this service, in addition to the free use of the Council's Refuse Tip at Cote Stones, Warton, for the depositing of similar rubbish, including garden waste, by rate-payers of the District who provide their own means of transport.

The much improved conditions of the tips generally, and the main tip at Cote Stones, Warton, in particular, were maintained, the actual tipping face being reduced to a minimum by the successful operation of "finger tipping". It is obvious that by such means, troubles from rat and fly infestations are equally reduced to a minimum, so that the Control of the tips from this aspect is made so much easier.

**SANITARY INSPECTIONS** (excluding visits made in connection with Housing Act matters as detailed on Page 24.)

Premises visited or purpose of visit	No. of visits
Houses, Public Health Act matters ....	426
Re Water supplies ....	106
Re Drains and Sewers ....	323
Re Infectious Disease ....	48
Caravan Sites ....	212
Factories and Workshops ....	50
Ice Cream Premises ....	109
Milk Samples ....	45
Other Food Premises ....	294
Shops Acts Inspections ....	14
Visits re Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	
Act 1963 ....	79
Miscellaneous Visits ....	597
Total number of Visits ....	2303

Number of defects or nuisances discovered ....	165
Number of defects remedied or nuisances abated	163
Number of Informal Notices served ....	85
Number of Formal Notices served ....	—
Legal Proceedings ....	—

## CARAVAN SITES

Once again it is pleasing to report that Licensed Caravan Sites within the District again gave very little trouble to this Department in their supervision. There are now 20-Caravan Sites of more than 5-Caravans, involving a total of 1,963 Caravans, all these Sites being licensed under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960, and subject to the Council's 1960 Conditions, based upon the model standards issued by the Minister. In addition to these there are 23 Sites of 5-Caravans or less involving a further 64-Caravans, which have been granted licences subject to the reduced standards, so that the total number of caravans that can be accommodated on licensed sites in the District is now 2,027.

The problem of the Gypsy type caravans on the undeveloped part of the Industrial Estate, owned jointly by the Lancaster Corporation and the Morecambe and Heysham Corporation in the Parish of Heaton-with-Oxcliffe, increased somewhat during the year, there being an average of 18 or so such vans for most of the summer months. In point of fact at the time of writing, there are still 10 or so caravans parked on this site.

This increased number of such itinerant people is not a problem which is peculiar to this District, but is, in fact, one of almost nationwide proportion. The most serious aspect of the matter is the high percentage of less desirable tinkers who travel from site to site and from town to town, leaving their trade marks of debris, broken glass and all forms of litter. These are the people who have let down the Gypsy Council and the more reputable cleanly type of itinerant and are creating a prejudice against all types of nomads, good and bad alike. I would be the first to agree that this prejudice is so obviously unjust, but I feel that some blame must rest with the Gypsy Council themselves, for failing, for so long, to acknowledge these facts, and to do something positive about instilling a sense of self-discipline into these less



desirable families. It is to be hoped that the report of the Joint Working Party of Local Authority Associations and the Gypsy Council, which was published towards the end of November, will result in nationwide action by the Appropriate Authorities under the Caravan Sites Act 1968.

Details of the main sites licensed are given below:—

Name of site	No. of Caravans Licensed
Ocean Edge Park Caravan Site, Middleton	631
	(501 in Lancaster R.D.)
Morecambe Lodge, Bolton-le-Sands .....	186
Shorefields Caravan Site, Middleton Sands	140
Cockerham Sands Caravan Park, Cockerham	282
Scout Crag Caravan Site, Warton .....	145
Vickers Holiday Camp, Heaton-with-Oxcliffe	90
	(In Lancaster R.D.)
Old Glasson Farm, Thurnham .....	75
Bolton Holmes Farm, Bolton-le-Sands .....	64
Red Bank Farm, Bolton-le-Sands .....	38
Detron Gate Farm, Bolton-le-Sands .....	60
Bottomdale, Slyne ....	41
Bottoms Farm, Silverdale .....	15
Shorefields, Slyne-with-Hest .....	15
Glen Cottage, Green Lane, Heaton-with-Oxcliffe	14
Sandside Farm, Bolton-le-Sands ....	34
Bank End Farm, Cockerham ....	52
Ovangle Farm, Heaton-with-Oxcliffe ....	22
Bank House Farm, Cockerham ....	15
Bank End Farm, Cockerham ....	35
Gibraltar Farm, Silverdale ....	15
Adjacent to "Thornbank", Glasson Dock, Thurnham	130

# SCHOOLS.

Generally the 15 Schools in this District are satisfactory as regards hygiene, eight of the schools being entirely recently constructed or largely modernised.

I give below a summary of Water Supplies, Sanitary Amenities etc., provided for each School.

SCHOOL	WATER SUPPLY		SAN. ACCOMMODATION (ALL W.C.s. No Dry Lavs.)		DRAINAGE		OWN
	W.B.	Fylde Valley W.B.	Private	Internal	External	To Sewer	COOK HOUSE
Bolton-le-Sands C.-of-E. Juniors	—	Yes	—	Yes	—	Yes	Yes
Bolton-le-Sands C.-of-E. Infants	—	Yes	—	Yes	—	Yes	Yes
Cockerham C.-of-E.	Yes	—	—	Yes	—	Yes	Yes
Ellel C.-of-E. Juniors	—	Yes	—	—	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ellel C.-of-E. Infants	—	Yes	—	Yes	—	Yes	Yes
Dolphinholme C.-of-E.	—	Yes	—	Yes	—	Yes	Yes
Overton C.-of-E.	—	Yes	—	Yes	—	Yes	Yes
Abbeystead Over Wyresdale C.-of-E.	—	—	Yes	—	Yes	—	—
Priest Hutton C.-of-E.	—	Yes	—	Yes	—	Yes	—
Silverdale C.-of-E.	—	Yes	—	Yes	—	Yes	Yes
Slyne-with-Hest C.-of-E.	—	Yes	—	Yes	—	Yes	Yes
Thurnham (Glasson Dock) C.-of-E.	Yes	—	—	—	Yes	Yes	—
Warton (Archbishop Hutton)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
C.-of-E. Juniors	—	Yes	—	Yes	Yes	—	—
Warton (Archbishop Hutton)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
C.-of-E. Infants	—	Yes	—	Yes	—	Yes	—
Yealand Redmayne C.-of-E.	—	Yes	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	—

TOTALS

2

12

1

12

5

11

4

9



**Swimming Baths.** There are no public swimming baths in the district, but one is privately owned. This is at Middleton Tower Holiday Camp. There is continuous circulation of water at this bath, and a recently renewed chlorination plant.

Two samples of this bath water were taken during the height of the season and the results were in each case satisfactory.

**Smoke Abatement.** There are seven factory and works chimneys in the district (excluding Messrs. Trimpell Ltd., and I.C.I. Ltd.) and no action has been necessary regarding smoke abatement.

**Offensive Trades.** There are no offensive trades carried on in this district.

**Common Lodging Houses.** There is no Common Lodging House in the District.

**Underground Sleeping Rooms and Houses Let in Lodgings.** There are none in the district.

**Shops and Offices.** As from April, 1956, the routine inspection of premises under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950, on behalf of the Lancashire County Council, was undertaken by the Council. Thus, in addition to matters dealt with directly, such as sanitary accommodation, ventilation and temperature, enquiries were made concerning the employment of young persons. During 1970, 14 such inspections and enquiries were carried out. By far the greater number of shops in the District are entirely family businesses with living accommodation attached to the business premises, and not involving the employment of any person other than members of the family.

**Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963.** Most of the provisions of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963 came into operation on the 1st August, 1964. From that date, the owner or occupier of any such premises was legally responsible for maintaining them in accordance with the standards laid down by the Act and the various regulations made under the Act. The standards referred to include the cleanliness, ventilation, sanitary conveniences, washing facilities, lighting, drinking water, storage of clothing, seating accommodation, the guarding of dangerous parts of machinery, the provision of first-aid box, working space, temperature, and fire precautions. The general provisions of the Act, other than fire precautions, are administered by the Local Authority except premises normally administered by the Factory Inspector and certain other exceptions.

During 1971, seven additional premises were registered under the Act bringing the total number of registered premises at the year end to 85, 79 of which received a general inspection. Copies of all these application forms have been forwarded to the Fire Authority.

# **FACTORIES ACT, 1961.**

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

## **Part VIII of the Act**

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number of			
	Number On Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	5	5	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	69	45	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>



## 2—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more “cases.”)

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Referred Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2) .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

### Part 1 of the Act.

Out-work — None in the District.

(Sections 133 and 134)

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

All samples for bacteriological examination are sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Preston.

**MILK.** The systematic programme of sampling of milk distributed throughout the District was maintained during 1970

A summary of the results of the various tests and examinations carried out during the year is given below:—

### (a) Raw Milk.

#### 1. Tuberculosis Biological Tests

No. of Samples ....	NIL
No. Positive ....	NIL
No. Negative ....	NIL

#### 2. Methylene Blue Reduction Test

No. of Samples ....	19
No. Satisfactory ....	18
No. Unsatisfactory ....	1

### (b) Heat Treated Milk

#### 1. Phosphatase Test

No. of Samples ....	9
No. Satisfactory ....	9
No. Unsatisfactory ....	NIL

#### 2. Methylene Blue Reduction Test

No. of Samples ....	9
No. Satisfactory ....	9
No. Unsatisfactory ....	NIL

#### 3. Turbidity Test

No. of Samples ....	1
No. Satisfactory ....	1
No. Unsatisfactory ....	NIL

Repeat samples were taken of all unsatisfactory samples and two of these again were found unsatisfactory and were referred to the Milk Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1960, which came into operation on the 1st October, 1960, all dealers' licences, other than those issued by the Minister, are issued by the Food and Drugs Authority for the area, i.e. The County Council. The registration of dairies other than Dairy Farms and of distributors of milk remains the responsibility of the District Council. There are in all 39 distributors of milk operating in the district, of which 17 are producer retailers, 12 are dairymen operating from premises in the district, 3 are shopkeepers in the district and 7 are distributors operating from premises outside the district.

A repeat sample was taken of the raw milk which failed the Methylene Blue Test, and this was found to be satisfactory. In cases where consecutive samples are reported unsatisfactory, the facts would be reported to the Milk Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Regarding Brucellosis, all routine samples taken by this Department were reported negative, although, following an adverse report upon a bulk sample of milk, produced within this District and retailed within the area of a neighbouring authority, the Medical Officer of Health issued a Pasteurising Order in respect of all milk produced at the farm. Detailed tests carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, indicated that five animals were infected, and these were removed from the herd for slaughter. After further Tests had been carried out upon individual animal samples taken by this department, one additional cow was found to be infected, and this also was slaughtered. Subsequent tests were satisfactory, and the Pasteurising Order was rescinded some five weeks after it came into force.

In addition to the routine samples mentioned above, there were 51 samples taken by Officials of the Lancashire County Council, and quite a number taken by the Lancaster Corporation and Morecambe and Heysham Corporation all of which with the exception of the one mentioned above, were reported negative for *Brucella Abortus*.

It is very gratifying to report that a further 28 have been notified to this Department as accredited herds under the Ministry's Scheme, which brings the total up to 110 out of the 228 dairy herds within the District.

I give below a brief tabulated version of the results of brucellosis investigations carried out within this District for the years 1963 to 1971:—

Year	Number of cows discovered secreting infected milk		Number of Herds involved		Number of samples of milk from individual Cows which were required to be taken
1963	3	.....	3	.....	156
1964	35	.....	9	.....	275
1965	17	.....	6	.....	219
1966	16	.....	6	.....	343
1967	9	.....	4	.....	168
1968	11	.....	6	.....	321
1969	NIL	.....	NIL	.....	16
1970	NIL	.....	NIL	.....	10
1971	6	.....	1	.....	57



**Ice Cream.** 109 visits of inspection were made during 1971 of the 54 premises in the District registered for the sale of ice cream and 1 for its manufacture and sale. Three samples were taken for bacteriological examination during the year, all of which were reported Grade 1.

**Meat Inspection.** There was no meat inspection carried out in the District during 1970, the only Slaughterhouse, that at Cockerham, becoming totally disused during 1969.

**SHRIMP PICKING.** Shrimp Picking was carried out at 23 of the premises registered for this purpose during the year and 23 visits of inspection were made to such premises in use. In all cases it was found that the regulations which are applicable, were being observed and no action was necessary.

## **OTHER FOOD PREMISES**

A total of 294 visits were made during 1971 to the various Other Food Premises in the District, and once again, it can be reported that no infringements of any significance were found at any of the premises which were visited. The use of pre-packed foods has continued to progress so that in respect of Grocers and General Stores, it is becoming a rarity to find open food being sold.

This year, there has been a notable increase in the quantity of foodstuffs condemned by this Department as being unfit for human consumption, and it is interesting that in every case, these foodstuffs have been voluntary surrendered, as a result of the initiative shown by the owner or manager of the respective business. This action is the direct result of work carried out in previous years by your Inspectors to encourage the owners of food premises to act as "Spotters", (a practice successfully developed in Poultry Inspection a number of years ago), followed by notification to the Public Health Department regarding any foodstuff which they consider to be a doubtful nature.

This policy is obviously very good from the Public Health aspect, and is an added insurance for the shop keeper, in so far as it reduces to a minimum the possibility of unfit food being offered for sale. A large Wholesale Grocery business was established recently in the Lancaster Rural District, and this supplies many of the local small shops. At this establishment, the management have co-operated 100% with the spotter system as previously mentioned. Their own staff vet thoroughly all goods, and in particular canned goods, as they are delivered to the premises, Thus it is now usual practice for goods to be checked at the wholesalers and retailers premises prior to sale

to the customer, and by these means, a task which would normally be prohibitive for your inspectors to perform, is made within bounds.

The other noticeable factor in regard to the General Hygiene of premises in the District, is that the local shop keepers are well aware of the threat to their trade by the large well known stores, that are now engaged in food retailing in the City, often after extensive renovations to their premises, with obviously high standards of Hygiene, equipment and presentation.

It has been apparent that ideas gleaned from these sources are being noted and adapted to suit the small village shops by their owners, anxious to keep pace with modern trends. This must certainly be in the interests of Food Hygiene, and warrants the encouragement and commendation of the Public Health Inspectorate.

**List of Food Premises.**

General grocers and provision dealers	....	....	....	....	48
Greengrocers and fruiterers	....	....	....	....	7
Fishmongers	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Meat Shops	....	....	....	....	5
Bakers and confectioners	....	....	....	....	2
Fried fish shops	....	....	....	....	5
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice cream, etc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, etc.					60
Shrimp-pickers — outworkers	.....	.....	.....	.....	36
					174

**Adulteration.** This part of food inspection is dealt with by the Lancashire County Council.

**Bakehouses.** There are now three bakehouses in the District situated, one each at Bolton-le-Sands, Hest Bank and Middleton. On the whole a good standard of general cleanliness is maintained.

**Rodent and other Pests Control Work.** The services of the Council Rodent Control Operator were again much in demand, as the figures below indicate.

Number of Domestic Premises treated for Rats during the year ....	123
Number of visits so involved ....	492
Number of Domestic Premises treated for Mice during the year ....	54
Number of visits so involved ....	216
Number of business or school premises treated for Rats during the year ....	23
Number of visits so involved ....	92
Number of business or school premises treated for Mice during the year ....	9
Number of visits so involved ....	36

The service to domestic premises is a free one but a charge has to be made for business and other premises.

In addition to this work, requests for assistance in dealing with wasps nests and other pests were made by 23 householders and this work which was equally appreciated, entailed over 50 visits.

The various sewerage systems were test baited for rats, and once again I am pleased to report that the level of infestation was remarkably low. The refuse tips also were baited at least once a quarter, this work involving in all 16 treatments and 64 visits.













